

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE DIVISION

LYNN KNULL,
on behalf of herself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ST. CROIX HOSPICE, LLC
7755 3rd Street North, Suite 200
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128

and

HOMETOWN HOSPICE & HOMECARE, INC.
13255 West Bluemound Road, Suite 103
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Defendants

Case No. 19-cv-1818

**COLLECTIVE AND CLASS
ACTION PURSUANT TO
29 U.S.C. §216(b) AND
AND FED. R. CIV. P. 23**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a collective and class action brought pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, (“FLSA”), and Wisconsin’s Wage Payment and Collection Laws, Wis. Stat. § 109.01 *et seq.*, Wis. Stat. § 104.01 *et seq.*, Wis. Stat. § 103.001 *et seq.*, Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 274.01 *et seq.*, and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 272.001 *et seq.* (“WWPCL”) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, by Plaintiff, Lynn Knull, against Defendants, St. Croix Hospice, LLC and Hometown Hospice & Homecare, Inc.

2. Plaintiff brings these FLSA and WWPCL claims and causes of action against Defendants on behalf of herself and all other similarly-situated current and former hourly-paid,

non-exempt employees of Defendants for purposes of obtaining relief under the FLSA and WWPCL for unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, costs, attorneys' fees, declaratory and/or injunctive relief, and/or any such other relief the Court may deem appropriate.

3. Defendants operated an unlawful compensation system that deprived current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees of their wages earned for all compensable work performed each workweek, including at an overtime rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek. Specifically, Defendants' unlawful compensation system failed to include all forms of non-discretionary compensation, such as monetary bonuses, commissions, incentives, awards, and/or other rewards and payments, in all current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' regular rates of pay for overtime calculation purposes, in violation of the FLSA and WWPCL.

4. Defendants' deliberate failure to compensate its hourly-paid, non-exempt employees for hours worked and work performed at the proper and legal rate(s) of pay violated federal law as set forth in the FLSA and state law as set forth in the WWPCL.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Court has original federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this case is brought under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, *et seq.*

6. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, over the state law claims, Wisconsin's Wage Payment and Collection Laws, Wis. Stat. § 109.01 *et seq.*, Wis. Stat. § 104.01 *et seq.*, Wis. Stat. § 103.001 *et seq.*, Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 274.01 *et seq.*, and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 272.001 *et seq.*, because they are so related in this action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

7. Venue in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), because Defendants do business, and have substantial and systematic contacts, in this District.

PARTIES AND COVERAGE

8. Plaintiff, Lynn Knull, is an adult female resident of the State of Wisconsin with a post office address of W340 N6621 Breezy Point Road, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066.

9. Defendant, St. Croix Hospice, LLC, was, at all material times herein, a Minnesota entity doing business in the State of Wisconsin entity with a principal address of 7755 3rd Street North, Suite 200, Oakdale, Minnesota 55128.

10. Defendant St. Croix Hospice, LLC is a hospice provider with locations that it owns, operates, and manages throughout the State of Wisconsin and the Midwestern region of the United States.

11. Defendant, Hometown Hospice & Homecare, Inc., was, at all material times herein, a Wisconsin entity with a principal address of 13255 West Bluemound Road, Suite 103, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005.

12. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint, (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff performed compensable work in the State of Wisconsin at facilities or locations owned, operated, and managed by Defendants.

13. For purposes of the FLSA, Defendants were “employers” of an “employee,” Plaintiff, as those terms are used in 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(d) and (e).

14. For purposes of the WWPCL, Defendants were “employers” of Plaintiff, and Plaintiff was “employed” by Defendants, as those terms, or variations thereof, are used in Wis. Stat. §§ 109.01 *et seq.*, 103.01 *et seq.*, 104.01 *et seq.*, and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 272.01.

15. During the relevant time periods as stated herein, Defendants were engaged in “commerce” and/or its employees were engaged in “commerce,” as that term is defined under the FLSA.

16. During the relevant time periods as stated herein, Defendants, both individually and collectively, employed more than two (2) employees.

17. During the relevant time periods as stated herein, Defendants’ annual dollar volume of sales or business, both individually and collectively, exceeded \$500,000.

18. During the relevant time periods as stated herein, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.

19. Plaintiff’s Notice of Consent to Join this collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) is contemporaneously filed with this Complaint (ECF No. 1).

20. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly-situated current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1). Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees were subjected to Defendants’ same terms and conditions of employment and same unlawful compensation policies as enumerated herein, performing the same or similar job duties at all of Defendants’ physical locations, including but not limited to the facilities or locations in the State of Wisconsin.

21. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all other current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees on whose behalf Plaintiff brings this Complaint performed compensable work in same or similar job duties on Defendants’ behalf, at Defendants’ direction, for Defendants’ benefit, and/or with Defendants’ knowledge.

22. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants supervised Plaintiff's and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' day-to-day activities.

23. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants hired, terminated, promoted, demoted, and/or suspended Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees.

24. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants reviewed Plaintiff's work performance and the work performance of all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees.

25. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants established Plaintiff's and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' work schedules and provided Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees with work assignments and hours of work.

26. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants established the terms, conditions, work rules, policies, and procedures by which Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees abided in the workplace.

27. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees utilized Defendants' employment policies, practices, and/or procedures in the performance of their job duties.

28. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants oversaw, managed, and adjudicated Plaintiff's and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' employment-related questions, benefits-related questions, and workplace issues.

29. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants compensated Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees for hours worked and/or work performed, including with additional forms of compensation, such as monetary bonuses, commissions, incentives, and/or other rewards and payments.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

30. In approximately April 2019, Defendant Hometown Hospice & Homecare, Inc. hired Plaintiff into the position of Occupational Therapist working primarily based out of its facility or location in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

31. In approximately August 2019 or September 2019, Defendant St. Croix Hospice, Inc. assumed management of Defendant Hometown Hospice & Homecare, Inc., including but not limited to its facility or location in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

32. On or about October 1, 2019, Defendant St. Croix Hospice, Inc. hired Plaintiff into the position of Occupational Therapist working primarily based out of Defendant Hometown Hospice & Homecare, Inc.'s facility or location in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

33. Plaintiff is still currently employed by Defendants.

34. During the entirety of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Plaintiff's Occupational Therapist position was an hourly-paid position.

35. During the entirety of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Plaintiff's Occupational Therapist position was a non-exempt position for FLSA and WWPCCL purposes.

36. During Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Plaintiff performed compensable work on Defendants' behalf, with Defendants' knowledge, for Defendants' benefit, and/or at Defendants' direction in the position of Occupational Therapist.

37. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants were employed and performed compensable work in hourly-paid, non-exempt job positions as part of Defendants' healthcare, homecare, and/or hospice services.

38. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants maintained employment records and other documentation regarding Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees.

39. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants maintained a centralized system for tracking and/or recording hours worked by Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees.

40. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants maintained a centralized system for compensating Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees for all remuneration earned.

41. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees frequently worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.

42. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants knew or had knowledge that Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees frequently worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.

43. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants tracked and/or recorded Plaintiff's and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' hours worked each workweek.

44. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants compensated Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees on a bi-weekly basis via paycheck.

45. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants' workweek for FLSA and WWPCL purposes was Sunday through Saturday.

46. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees were subject to Defendants' same unlawful compensation policies, practices, customs, and/or schemes of failing to include all forms of non-discretionary compensation, such as monetary bonuses, commissions, incentives, awards, and/or other rewards and payments, in their regular rates of pay for overtime purposes in violation of the FLSA and WWPCL.

47. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff's and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees' paychecks did not properly or lawfully compensate them for all hours worked in a workweek, including those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.

48. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants were legally entitled to overtime pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

49. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants' unlawful pay practices as described herein resulted in Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees being deprived of compensation for all hours worked in a workweek at an overtime rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

50. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants were or should have been aware that their policies in practice did not properly and lawfully compensate Plaintiff and all other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees at the correct and lawful rate(s) of pay for all hours worked in a workweek, including but not limited to an overtime rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS UNDER THE FLSA

51. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated employees as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The similarly situated employees include:

All current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1) who have not been compensated for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek at the proper, correct, and/or lawful overtime rate of pay as a result of Defendants' failure to include all forms of non-discretionary compensation in said employees' regular rates of pay for overtime calculation purposes.

52. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective primarily performed non-exempt job duties each workweek and, thus, were legally entitled to overtime pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

53. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective were compensated on an hourly basis (and not on a salary basis) each workweek and, thus, were legally entitled to overtime pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

54. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants compensated Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective with, in addition to an hourly or regular rate(s) of pay, other forms of non-discretionary compensation – such as

performance-based and/or attendance-based monetary bonuses and incentives, commissions, awards, and/or other rewards and payments – on approximately a bi-weekly basis.

55. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), the monetary compensation that Defendants provided to Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective were non-discretionary in nature: they were made pursuant to a known plan (performance or productivity) or formula and/or were announced and known to Plaintiff and all other current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees to encourage and/or reward their steady, rapid, productive, reliable, safe, consistent, regular, predictable, continued, and/or efficient work performance and/or hours worked.

56. Within the three (3) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1), Defendants' pay practices failed to include all forms of non-discretionary compensation, such as monetary bonuses, commissions, incentives, awards, and/or other rewards and payments, in Plaintiff's and the FLSA Collective's regular rates of pay for overtime calculation and compensation purposes during workweeks when said employees worked more than forty (40) hours during the representative time period.

57. Defendants' deliberate failure to properly compensate Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective in such a fashion as described in the aforementioned paragraph violated federal law as set forth in the FLSA.

58. Defendants' unlawful practice as it relates to non-discretionary compensation described herein failed to compensate and deprived Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective of the appropriate and lawful overtime wages and compensation due and owing to them, in violation of the FLSA.

59. Defendants were or should have been aware that their unlawful practice as it relates to non-discretionary compensation failed to compensate and deprived Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective of the appropriate and lawful overtime wages and compensation due and owing to them, in violation of the FLSA.

60. Defendants, as a matter of practice, did not include all forms of non-discretionary compensation in the FLSA Collective's regular rates of pay for overtime compensation and calculation purposes. Thus, these practices resulted in Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective being denied overtime compensation by Defendants at the rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a workweek.

61. Plaintiff's FLSA Cause of Action is brought under and maintained as an opt-in Collective Action Pursuant to Section 216(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of the FLSA Collective, and these Cause of Action may be pursued by those who affirmatively opt in to this case, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

62. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are and have been similarly situated, have and have had substantially similar job requirements, and/or pay provisions, and are and have been subject to Defendants' decisions, policies, plans and programs, practices, procedures, protocols, routines, and rules willfully failing and refusing to compensate them properly and lawfully with overtime compensation. Plaintiff's claims and causes of action as stated herein are the same as those of the FLSA Collective.

63. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective seek relief on a collective basis challenging, among any other FLSA violations, Defendants' pay practices as described herein.

64. The FLSA Collective is readily ascertainable. For purpose of notice, the names, phone numbers, and addresses are readily available from Defendants. Notice can be provided to

the FLSA Collective via first class mail to the last address known by Defendants and through posting at Defendants' locations in areas where postings are normally made.

65. Defendants' conduct, as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective.

RULE 23 CLASS ALLEGATIONS - WISCONSIN

66. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated employees pursuant to the WWPCCL, under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. The similarly situated employees include:

All current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants within the two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of this Complaint (ECF No. 1) who have not been compensated for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek at the proper, correct, and/or lawful overtime rate of pay as a result of Defendants' failure to include all forms of non-discretionary compensation in said employees' regular rates of pay for overtime calculation purposes.

67. The members of the Wisconsin Class are readily ascertainable. The number and identity of the members of the Wisconsin Class are determinable from the records of Defendants. The job titles, length of employment, and the rates of pay for each member of the Wisconsin Class are also determinable from Defendants' records. For purposes of notice and other purposes related to this action, their names and addresses are readily available from Defendants. Notice can be provided by means permissible under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

68. The proposed Wisconsin Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and more importantly the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, upon information and belief, there are over fifty members (50) members of the Wisconsin Class.

69. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those claims which could be alleged by any member of the Wisconsin Class, and the relief sought is typical of the relief which would be sought by each member of the Wisconsin Class in separate actions. All the members of the Wisconsin Class were subject to the same corporate practices of Defendants, as alleged herein. Defendants' corporate-wide policies and practices affected all members of the Wisconsin Class similarly, and Defendants benefited from the same type of unfair and/or wrongful acts as to each member of the Wisconsin Class. Plaintiff and other members of the Wisconsin Class sustained similar losses, injuries and damages arising from the same unlawful policies, practices and procedures.

70. Plaintiff is able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Wisconsin Class and has no interests antagonistic to the members of the Wisconsin Class. Plaintiff is represented by counsel who is experienced and competent in both collective/class action litigation and employment litigation and have previously represented plaintiffs in wage and hour cases.

71. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy – particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where individual class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit against corporate defendants. Class action treatment will permit a number of similarly-situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of efforts and expense that numerous individual actions engender. Because the losses, injuries and damages suffered by each of the individual members of the Wisconsin Class are small in the sense pertinent to a class action analysis, the expenses and

burden of individual litigation would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the individual members of the Wisconsin Class to redress the wrongs done to them.

72. Important public interests will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. The adjudication of individual litigation claims would result in a great expenditure of Court and public resources. However, treating the claims as a class action would result in a significant saving of these costs. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Wisconsin Class would create a risk of inconsistent and/or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Wisconsin Class, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants and resulting in the impairment of class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. The issues in this action can be decided by means of common, class-wide proof. In addition, if appropriate, the Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage this action as a class action.

73. Defendants have violated the WWPCL regarding payment of wages and overtime premium wages. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing claims because doing so can harm their employment, future employment, and future efforts to secure employment. Class actions provide class members who are not named in the Complaint a degree of anonymity which allows for the vindication of their rights while eliminating or reducing these risks.

74. There are questions of fact and law common to the Wisconsin Class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members. The questions of law and fact common to the Wisconsin Class arising from Defendants' actions include, without limitation, the following: (a) Whether Defendants provided the Wisconsin Class with forms of

non-discretionary compensation; (b) Whether Defendants maintained an unlawful compensation system that failed to include these forms of non-discretionary compensation in the Wisconsin Class' regular rates of pay for overtime calculation purposes; and (c) The nature and extent of class-wide injury and the measure of damages for the injury.

75. The questions set forth above predominate over any questions affecting only individual persons, and a class action is superior with respect to considerations of consistency, economy, efficiency, fairness and equity, to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the state law claims.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as Amended
(Plaintiff on behalf of herself and the FLSA Collective)

76. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the FLSA Collective, reasserts and incorporates by reference all paragraphs set forth above as if restated herein.

77. At all times material herein, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective have been entitled to the rights, protections, and benefits provided under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*

78. At all times material herein, Defendants were employers of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective as provided under the FLSA.

79. At all times material herein, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective were employees of Defendants as provided under the FLSA.

80. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are victims of uniform compensation policy and practice in violation of the FLSA.

81. Defendants violated the FLSA by failing to account for and compensate Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective for overtime premium pay at the correct overtime rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) hours each workweek by failing to properly include all forms

of non-discretionary compensation in the FLSA Collective's regular rates of pay for overtime calculation purposes.

82. The FLSA regulates, among other things, the payment of an overtime premium by employers whose employees are engaged in commerce, or engaged in the production of goods for commerce, or employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce. 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1).

83. Defendants were (and are) subject to the overtime pay requirements of the FLSA because Defendants are enterprises engaged in commerce and/or its employees are engaged in commerce, as defined in FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(b).

84. Defendants' failure to properly compensate Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective was willfully perpetrated. Defendants also has not acted in good faith or with reasonable grounds to believe its actions and omissions were not a violation of the FLSA, and as a result thereof, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are entitled to recover an award of liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount of unpaid overtime premium pay described above pursuant to Section 216(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). Alternatively, should the Court find that Defendants acted in good faith or with reasonable grounds in failing to pay overtime premium pay wages, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are entitled to an award of pre-judgment interest at the applicable legal rate.

85. As a result of the aforesaid willful violations of the FLSA's provisions, overtime compensation has been unlawfully withheld by Defendants from Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective for which Defendants are liable pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

86. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective are entitled to damages equal to the mandated overtime premium pay within the three (3) years preceding the date of filing of this Complaint,

plus periods of equitable tolling because Defendants acted willfully and knew or showed reckless disregard of whether its conduct was prohibited by the FLSA.

87. Pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), successful plaintiffs are entitled to reimbursement of the costs and attorneys' fees expended in successfully prosecuting an action for unpaid wages and overtime wages.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violations of Wisconsin's Wage Payment and Collection Laws, as Amended
(Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Wisconsin Class)

88. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Wisconsin Class, re-allege and incorporate all previous paragraphs as if they were set forth herein.

89. At all relevant times: Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class were employees of Defendants within the meaning of Wis. Stat. §§ 109.01(1r), 103.001(5), and 104.01(2)(a); Defendants were employers of Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class within the meaning of Wis. Stat. §§ 109.01(2), 103.001(6), and 104.01(3)(a), and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 272.01(5); and Defendants employed, and/or continue to employ, Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class within the meaning of Wis. Stat. §§ 109.01 *et seq.*, 103.01 *et seq.*, 104.01 *et seq.*, and § DWD 272.01.

90. Throughout the Wisconsin Class Period, Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class regularly performed activities that were an integral and indispensable part of their principal activities without receiving compensation for these activities.

91. At all relevant times, Defendants had common policies, programs, practices, procedures, protocols, routines, and rules of willfully failing to properly pay Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class overtime compensation.

92. By failing to properly include all forms of non-discretionary compensation in the Wisconsin Class' regular rates of pay for overtime calculations purposes, Defendants willfully

failed to pay Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class overtime premium compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours a workweek, in violation of the WWPCL.

93. As set forth above, Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class members have sustained losses in their compensation as a proximate result of Defendants' violations. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class seek damages in the amount of their respective unpaid compensation, injunctive relief requiring Defendants to cease and desist from their violations of the Wisconsin laws described herein and to comply with them, and such other legal and equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper. Under Wis. Stat. § 109.11, Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class may be entitled to liquidated damages equal and up to fifty percent (50%) of the unpaid wages.

94. Plaintiff and the Wisconsin Class seek recovery of attorneys' fees and the costs of this action to be paid by Defendants pursuant to the WWPCL.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that this Court grant the following relief:

- a) At the earliest possible time, issue an Order allowing Notice, or issue such Court supervised Notice, to all similarly-situated current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants informing them of this action and their rights to participate in this action. Such Notice shall inform all similarly-situated current and qualified former employees of the pendency of this action, the nature of this action, and of their right to "opt in" to this action. Additionally, such notice will include a statement informing the similarly-situated current and qualified former employees that it is illegal for Defendants to take any actions in retaliation of their consent to join this action;
- b) At the earliest possible time, issue an Order certifying this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23;
- c) At the earliest possible time, issue an Order appointing Walcheske & Luzi, LLC as class counsel pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23;
- d) Issue an Order, pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, declaring Defendants' actions as described in the Complaint as unlawful and in violation of the FLSA and Wisconsin Law and applicable regulations and as willful as defined in the FLSA and Wisconsin Law;

- e) Issue an Order directing and requiring Defendants to pay Plaintiff and all other similarly-situated hourly-paid, non-exempt employees damages in the form of reimbursement for unpaid overtime wages for all time spent performing compensable work for which they were not paid pursuant to the rate provided by the FLSA and WWPCCL;
- f) Issue an Order directing and requiring Defendants to pay Plaintiff and all other similarly-situated hourly-paid, non-exempt employees liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA and WWPCCL in an amount equal to, and in addition to the amount of wages and overtime wages owed to them;
- g) Issue an Order directing Defendants to reimburse Plaintiff and all other similarly-situated hourly-paid, non-exempt employees for the costs and attorneys' fees expended in the course of litigating this action, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and
- h) Provide Plaintiff and all other similarly-situated hourly-paid, non-exempt employees with such other and further relief, as the Court deems just and equitable.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A JURY AS TO ALL TRIABLE ISSUES.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2019

WALCHESKE & LUZI, LLC
Counsel for Plaintiff

s/ **Scott S. Luzi**
Scott S. Luzi, State Bar No. 1067405

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